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**RESOURCE INVENTORY**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**1977**

**NONFEDERAL LAND AND WATER**

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

1980

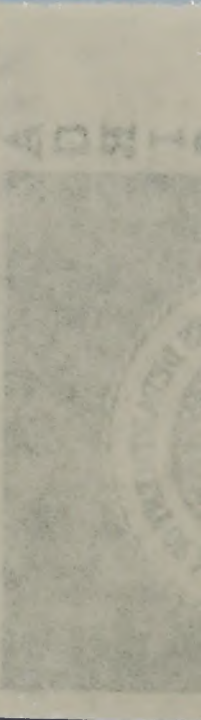


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South Carolina's land and water are its most valuable natural resources. As demands for their use increase, the need to know their status and condition and to protect them becomes even more important.



## F O R E W O R D

The South Carolina Resources Inventory was designed to provide statistical data for nonfederal lands in the state. The data were gathered during the months of March through October 1977 by field employees of the USDA-Soil Conservation Service.

This inventory was made as a part of the National Resources Inventory - 1977, designed jointly by the Soil Conservation Service and the Statistical Laboratory of Iowa State University.

Data for South Carolina were collected from approximately 3,453 specific sample points on 1,151 primary sample units, 160 acres in size. The statistics represent a state inventory. They are not reliable for a specific county or any other area or region within the state. Work is currently underway on individual county resources inventories that will provide statistically reliable data by county and groups of counties.

The 1977 inventory is to be used as base data for continuing appraisals of the status and condition of soil, water and related resources. The appraisal is expected to be updated every five years.

The purpose of this report is to present an analysis of selected inventory information that can be used by governmental agencies, universities, planning agencies, and others. The report includes data such as land use, small water bodies and streams, flood-prone areas, acreage of each land capability class, status of conservation treatment, prime farmland, acreage of pasture, forests and other uses with potential for conversion to cropland, and sheet and rill erosion rates.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The total area of land and water in South Carolina is 19,870,000 acres. This inventory excluded 1,111,000 acres of land in federal ownership and 569,000 acres in water bodies 40 acres in size and larger and streams one-eighth mile wide or more. This report is devoted to the remaining 18,190,000 acres.

### Definitions of Land Uses

Cropland - Land used for growing row crops, close grown field crops, hayland, and orchards.

Pastureland - Land used primarily for producing forage plants, including introduced species and native vegetation, for animal consumption.

Forest Land - Land with at least a 25 percent tree canopy cover or land at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees of any size.

Urban and Builtup Land - Includes units of land 10 acres or more in size that are used for residences, industrial sites, commercial sites, utility facilities, transportation facilities, roads and small parks within urban and builtup areas, and recreational facilities. This category also includes all roads and railroads outside of urban and builtup areas.

Other - Includes farmsteads, feedlots, broiler and layer houses, greenhouses and nurseries, strip mines, quarries, gravel pits, borrow pits, coastal marshes and dunes, mines, water bodies less than 40 acres, streams less than one-eighth mile wide, and small builtup areas less than 10 acres in size.

Other Land - Includes all lands defined as "other" but does not include water bodies less than 40 acres and streams less than one-eighth mile wide.

### Other Terms

Total Area - Total surface area (in acres) in 1977. Both land area and water area are included.

Land Area - Total surface area of the state minus water bodies greater than 40 acres in size and perennial streams greater than one-eighth mile wide.

Inventory Acres - Total area of the state (19,870,000 acres) minus 1,111,000 acres in federal ownership and 569,000 surface acres of water bodies larger than 40 acres in size and streams greater than one-eighth mile wide. This inventory is devoted to the remaining 18,190,000 acres of land and small water bodies and streams.

Nonfederal Land - Land with the following ownerships: private, municipal, county or state.

Federal Land - Land owned by the federal government.

Major Land Resource Area - Geographically associated land resource units which are most important in statewide planning, particularly in relation to agriculture. This state inventory cannot be interpreted by Major Land Resource Inventories, however, an understanding of these geographic divisions and their characteristics and land uses compliments the inventory information. (See Appendix B.)

Land Capability Class and Subclass - The land capability classification (subclass and class) is an interpretive classification based on the effects of combinations of climate and permanent soil characteristics on risks of soil damage, limitations in use, and soil management requirements. Slope, soil texture, soil depth, effects of past erosion, permeability, water-holding capacity, type of clay minerals, and the many other similar features are considered permanent soil qualities and characteristics. (See Appendix A.)

Prime Farmland - Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oil seed crops and is also available for these purposes. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Detailed criteria pertaining to prime farmland designation are available from Soil Conservation Service offices.

Flood-Prone Areas - Areas adjoining rivers, streams, water courses, bays, lakes, alluvial plains or other areas that in the past have been covered intermittently by floodwater or could be expected to be flooded in the future. "Flood-prone areas" are the approximate areas subject to inundation by a flood having an average recurrence interval of once in 100 years (flood having a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year).

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TABLE 1. LAND USE, NONFEDERAL  
SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Acres (1000)</u>	<u>Percent of Inventory Acreage</u>
Cropland	3,331	18.3
Pastureland	1,242	6.8
Forest Land	10,770	59.3
Urban and Builtup Land	1,898	10.4
Other	949	5.2
Total Inventory Acreage	18,190	100.0

KEY POINTS

- 15.6 percent of the nonfederal land area in South Carolina is in uses such as water, transportation and urban and builtup land that make it unavailable for agriculture or forestry uses.
- The approximate ratio of the three primary rural land uses is 1 acre of pasture-land - 3 acres of cropland - 9 acres of forest land.

TABLE 2. SMALL WATER BODIES AND STREAMS BY MAJOR USE  
ON NONFEDERAL LAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977

Major Use	Water Bodies Less Than 40 Acres		Streams Less Than 1/8 Mile Wide	Total Area
	No.	Acres (1000)	Acres (1000)	
Irrigation	5,092	7	1	8
Livestock	10,303	13	9	22
Water Supply	290	1	3	4
Recreation, Fish & Wildlife	16,558	50	66	116
Erosion & Sediment Control	189	<u>1/</u>	-	<u>1/</u>
Other	757	8	20	28
Total	33,189	79	99	178

1/ Less than 500 acres.

The average size of ponds and lakes in this inventory category is 2.4 acres. Recreation, fish and wildlife and livestock water are the primary uses of small water bodies and streams in South Carolina.



TABLE 3. FLOOD-PRONE AREAS BY LAND USE, 1/  
RURAL NONFEDERAL LAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Total Acres</u> (1000)	<u>Acres in</u> <u>Flood-Prone Areas</u> (1000)	<u>Percent in</u> <u>Flood-Prone Areas</u>
Cropland	3,331	179	5.4
Pastureland	1,242	57	4.6
Forest Land	10,770	1,907	17.7
Other Land	687	436	63.5
Total	16,030	2,579	16.1

1/ Areas that flood at least once in 100 years



More than 5 percent of South Carolina's cropland is in flood-prone areas.



Most of the "other land" classified as flood-prone is coastal marsh.

TABLE 4. RURAL NONFEDERAL LAND BY CAPABILITY CLASS/SUBCLASS AND LAND USE  
SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977

Capability Class/Subclass <sup>1/</sup>	Cropland	Pastureland	Forest Land	Other Land	Total
	----- Acres (1000) -----				
I	453	24	122	13	612
Ile	588	479	924	35	2,026
Iiw	700	46	1,038	39	1,823
IIs	510	47	352	12	921
IIle	159	301	828	27	1,315
IIiw	367	75	1,477	15	1,934
IIIs	188	69	490	28	775
Ive	56	79	606	22	763
IVw	57	5	717	14	793
IVs	130	28	587	16	761
Vw	20	4	393	15	432
VIe	50	66	696	22	834
VIw	17	0	785	7	809
VIIs	36	0	180	0	216
VIIe	0	19	935	10	964
VIIw	0	0	553	45	598
VIIIs	0	0	87	16	103
VIII	0	0	0	351	351
Total	3,331	1,242	10,770	687	16,030

<sup>1/</sup> See Appendix A for descriptions of land capability classes/subclasses.

#### KEY POINTS

- Cropland -- 14% is Class I, 54% is Class II, 21% is Class III, and 7% is Class IV; 26% has a potential hazard of erosion (e); 35% has a wetness problem (w); and 26% has a soil problem(s) such as low moisture-holding capacity.
- Pastureland -- 93% is in Classes I - IV.
- Forest Land -- 66% is in Classes I - IV, and 34% is in Classes V - VII.

TABLE 5. PRIME FARMLAND BY LAND USE  
RURAL NONFEDERAL LAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Total Acres</u> <u>(1000)</u>	<u>Prime Farmland</u>	
		<u>Acres</u> <u>(1000)</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cropland	3,331	1,543	46
Pastureland	1,242	474	38
Forest Land	10,770	1,393	13
Other Land	687	74	11
Total	16,030	3,484	22



About one-fifth of the nonfederal land in South Carolina is classed as prime farmland. Only one-half of the cropland acreage is prime farmland.

Acreage of prime farmland being used for forest land is almost equal to acreage of prime farmland used as cropland.

TABLE 6. NONFEDERAL PASTURE, FORESTS AND OTHER USES WITH POTENTIAL FOR CONVERSION  
(WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE) TO CROPLAND,  
BY LAND CAPABILITY CLASS/SUBCLASS, <sup>1/</sup> SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977

Capability Class/Subclass <sup>2/</sup>	High Potential	Medium Potential	Conversion Unlikely	Zero Potential
	----- Acres (1000) -----			
I	31	72	35	20
Ile	198	230	802	207
Iiw	101	248	652	123
IIs	74	109	184	45
IIIe	47	215	729	163
IIiw	83	350	837	298
IIIs	49	112	341	84
IVe	5	55	437	212
IVw	19	75	488	156
IVs	14	104	343	171
Vw	12	51	217	131
VIe	5	46	421	313
VIw	0	66	406	320
VIs	0	5	133	43
VII & VIII	0	58	548	1,411
Total	638	1,796	6,573	3,697

<sup>1/</sup> The rating of potential for conversion was based on evidence of similar land being converted to cropland within the last 3 years and considers commodity prices, development and production costs common for the year 1977.

<sup>2/</sup> See Appendix A for descriptions of land capability classes/subclasses.

#### KEY POINTS

- Approximately 19% of rural land not now in cropland has a medium or high potential for conversion to cropland. If converted this could increase cropland acreage by 2,434,000 acres or nearly 73% of the present amount.
- 63% of the land with high potential for conversion is Capability Classes I and II - land highly suitable for cropland.

TABLE 7. STATUS OF CONSERVATION TREATMENT BY LAND USE  
NONFEDERAL LAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977

	Cropland		Pastureland		Forest Land		Other Land		All Land	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
	(1000)		(1000)		(1000)		(1000)		(1000)	
Trt. Adequate <sup>1/</sup>	1,276	38	506	41	4,671	43	572	83	7,025	44
Trt. Needed <sup>2/</sup>	2,055	62	736	59	6,099	57	115	17	9,005	56
Total	3,331	100	1,242	100	10,770	100	687	100	16,030	100

<sup>1/</sup> Treatment Adequate - This is land on which the current conservation treatment is adequate to meet the erosion, drainage or irrigation conservation problems and the land user's current management objectives.

<sup>2/</sup> Treatment Needed - Land on which additional conservation practices are needed to adequately meet the erosion control or drainage needs of the land and/or the user's management objectives under its current use.

#### KEY POINTS

- The primary treatments needed on cropland are erosion control and improved drainage.
- The primary treatments needed on pastureland and forest land are management type practices necessary to attain acceptable levels of production.
- Fifty-six percent of all land in South Carolina is in need of erosion control, water management or production management conservation practices.

TABLE 8. SHEET AND RILL EROSION BY LAND USE  
ON NONFEDERAL LAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977 <sup>1/</sup>

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Acres (1000)</u>	<u>Average Erosion (Tons/Acre/Year)</u>	<u>Total Erosion (1000/Tons/Year)</u>
Cropland	3,331	4.65	15,475 (85%)
Pastureland	1,242	0.63	782 (4.3%)
Forest Land	10,770	0.18	1,938 (10.7%)
Urban and Built-up Land	1,898	No Estimate	No Estimate
Other	949	No Estimate	No Estimate
Total	18,190		

<sup>1/</sup> Does not include soil loss from wind erosion. The volume of soil loss by wind erosion in South Carolina is relatively small, however, the damage to small plants from blowing soil is of considerable concern in some years.



An estimated 18.2 million tons of soil erodes from South Carolina farmlands annually; 85 percent is from cropland.

TABLE 9 - SHEET AND RILL EROSION ON CROPLAND BY CAPABILITY CLASS/SUBCLASS  
NONFEDERAL LAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977

<u>Class/ Subclass</u> <u>1/</u>	<u>Acres (1000)</u>	<u>Average Erosion (Tons/Acre/Year)</u>	<u>Total Erosion (1000 Tons/Year)</u>
I	453	3.00	1,357
Ile	588	7.84	4,612
Iiw	700	2.66	1,864
IIs	510	4.50	2,296
IIIe	159	8.21	1,305
IIiw	367	2.63	966
IIIs	188	4.21	792
IVe	56	13.77	771
IVw	57	1.42	81
IVs	130	3.06	398
Vw	20	1.60	32
VIe	50	11.74	587
VIw	17	2.06	35
VIIs	36	10.53	379
Total	3,331	4.65	15,475

1/ See Appendix A for descriptions of land capability classes/subclasses.

#### KEY POINTS

- The highest average soil erosion rate per acre is on IVe and VIe land, but the greatest total soil erosion is on Ile land.
- Average per acre soil erosion on Ile and IIIe cropland is about twice that normally considered acceptable to maintain a productive resource base. Erosion on IVe cropland is about four times the acceptable level.
- One-fourth of the total cropland is in subclass "e" (primary hazard is erosion) and accounts for one-half of all cropland erosion.

TABLE 10. SELECTED CONSERVATION TREATMENT NEEDS BY LAND USE  
NONFEDERAL LAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: 1977

Cropland		Pastureland		Forest land	
<u>Treatment Needs</u>	<u>Acres</u> (1000)	<u>Treatment Needs</u>	<u>Acres</u> (1000)	<u>Treatment Needs</u>	<u>Acres</u> (1000)
Erosion Control	1,481	Protect from Overgrazing	102	Reforestation	1,808
Drainage	574	Pasture Improvement	480	Timber Stand	4,093
		Re-Establishment	154	Improvement	
Total Needing	<u>2,055</u>	Total Needing	<u>736</u>	Total Needing	<u>5,901</u> <sup>1/</sup>

<sup>1/</sup> Does not include 198,000 acres of grazed forestland needing treatment to improve grazing.

#### KEY POINTS

##### Cropland

- 38% of cropland is adequately treated.
- Of the slightly over 2 million acres of cropland needing treatment, about 72% needs erosion control and 28% needs improved drainage.

##### Pastureland

- 41% of pastureland is classed in high fair or better condition with no treatment needed.
- About 10% of pastureland is persistently overgrazed, but can be corrected by better livestock management and (or) installation of watering facilities to improve grazing distribution.
- 40% of the pasture needs improvement of present plant cover by applying recommended management practices and grazing systems.
- 12% of existing pastureland needs complete re-establishment.

##### Forest Land

- 45% of forest land is adequately treated for protection of soil and water resources and to achieve an acceptable level of production. Of the nearly 6 million acres needing treatment, 30% needs reforestation and 70% needs various kinds of timber stand improvement practices.

TABLE 11. SOUTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER STATISTICS BY COUNTY <sup>1/</sup>

County	Land <sup>2/</sup>	Water <sup>3/</sup>	Total	Urban Land <sup>4/</sup>	Rural Land <sup>5/</sup>
			Acres		
Abbeville	323,840	1,920	325,760	8,590	315,250
Aiken	695,680	2,560	698,240	62,588	633,092
Allendale	267,520	0	267,520	4,583	262,937
Anderson	472,899	24,381	497,280	28,849	444,050
Bamberg	252,800	0	252,800	311	252,489
Barnwell	353,812	108	353,920	17,721	336,091
Beaufort	370,560	74,240	444,800	69,480	301,080
Berkeley	710,400	78,080	788,480	38,114	672,286
Calhoun	241,280	7,680	248,960	4,745	236,535
Charleston	597,592	60,160	657,752	60,651	536,941
Cherokee	252,031	769	252,800	15,560	236,471
Chester	373,595	3,365	376,960	22,517	351,078
Chesterfield	505,600	2,560	508,160	7,745	497,855
Clarendon	383,360	60,800	444,160	7,707	375,653
Colleton	673,024	7,040	680,064	10,880	662,144
Darlington	347,520	1,920	349,440	23,724	323,796
Dillon	260,000	480	260,480	7,168	252,832
Dorchester	364,160	0	364,160	21,888	342,272
Edgefield	308,425	1,975	310,400	2,979	305,446
Fairfield	435,854	15,964	451,818	20,186	415,668
Florence	514,801	399	515,200	30,371	484,430
Georgetown	519,680	32,640	552,320	32,832	486,848
Greenville	506,837	1,963	508,800	126,669	380,168
Greenwood	285,440	7,680	293,120	15,457	269,983
Hampton	358,840	840	359,680	6,603	352,237
Horry	738,560	1,280	739,840	42,665	695,895
Jasper	417,280	10,880	428,160	3,464	413,816
*Kershaw	499,840	10,240	510,080	17,922	481,918
*Lancaster	321,280	3,840	325,120	20,476	300,804
Laurens	454,800	6,000	460,800	28,470	426,330
Lee	261,760	0	261,760	7,088	254,672
Lexington	458,730	32,150	490,880	83,469	375,261

TABLE 11. SOUTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER STATISTICS BY COUNTY <sup>1/</sup> (Continued)

County	Land <sup>2/</sup>	Water <sup>3/</sup>	Total Acres	Urban Land <sup>4/</sup>	Rural Land <sup>5/</sup>
McCormick	230,400	27,520	257,920	5,500	224,900
Marion	311,936	640	312,576	13,928	298,008
Marlboro	308,155	1,605	309,760	14,420	293,735
Newberry	406,400	8,960	415,360	18,784	387,616
Oconee	397,935	32,785	430,720	7,145	390,790
Orangeburg	707,840	8,960	716,800	44,547	663,293
Pickens	314,880	4,480	319,360	57,035	257,845
Richland	478,720	6,400	485,120	189,421	289,299
Saluda	293,120	3,840	296,960	3,893	289,227
Spartanburg	529,610	2,870	532,480	76,122	453,488
Sumter	430,080	11,520	441,600	37,888	392,192
Union	328,893	707	329,600	7,184	321,709
Williamsburg	596,000	0	596,000	17,600	578,400
York	439,062	7,018	446,080	17,720	421,342
Totals	19,300,831	569,219	19,870,050	1,362,659	17,938,172

<sup>1/</sup> Includes both federal and nonfederal land and water. Source: 1970 Census unless some later adjustment has been made.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes the acreage of streams no greater than 1/8 mile wide and water bodies not larger than 40 acres in size.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes only the streams greater than 1/8 mile wide and water bodies larger than 40 acres in size.

<sup>4/</sup> Includes contiguous units of 40 acres or more in size used for residences, industrial sites, commercial sites, construction sites, institutional sites, railroad yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, and so forth. Refer to definition of land uses to understand the difference between "urban land" in this table and "urban and builtup land" in Table 1.

<sup>5/</sup> In addition to the obvious rural land uses, roads, highways and railroads with their associated rights-of-way in rural areas plus urban and builtup areas in units less than 40 contiguous acres are included.

\* The 1978 land transfer between Kershaw and Lancaster Counties is not reflected in these statistics.



Land Capabilities Classes

# DESCRIPTION OF LAND CAPABILITY CLASSES/SUBCLASSES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

(The Roman numeral is the capability class. The subclass is indicated by a letter which identifies the dominant problem or hazard in use of the land, i.e., e - erosion susceptibility; w - wetness or overflow; s - rooting zone limitations, low moisture-holding capacity, or stones. The absence of a subclass indicates that there are no appreciable limitations to use.)

- I - Nearly level, deep, well-drained soils with few restrictions affecting their use.
- Ile - Gently sloping, well to somewhat poorly drained soils, with a moderate erosion hazard.
- Iiw - Nearly level, moderately well or somewhat poorly drained soils with occasional damaging overflow or wetness correctable by drainage.
- IIs - Nearly level or gently sloping soils with less than ideal soil depth or moisture-holding capacity.
- IIle - Gently sloping and sloping soils with a high susceptibility to erosion.
- IIiw - Nearly level, somewhat poorly and poorly drained soils with wetness limitations or a continuing hazard of waterlogging after drainage or frequent overflow accompanied by some crop damage.
- IIIs - Nearly level to sloping soils with a low moisture-holding capacity.
- IVe - Sloping or strongly sloping soils with severe susceptibility to erosion or severe effects of past erosion.
- IVw - Nearly level, poorly and very poorly drained soils with excessive wetness or a continuing hazard of waterlogging after drainage or frequent overflows accompanied by severe crop damage.
- IVs - Gently sloping to sloping soils that have low moisture-holding capacity or sloping shallow soils.
- Vw - Nearly level, poorly drained and very poorly drained soils which are subject to frequent overflow and ponding and for which drainage for cultivated crops is not feasible.
- VIe - Sloping and strongly sloping, eroded soils or moderately steep and steep soils with severe susceptibility to erosion or severe effects of past erosion.
- VIw - Nearly level, poorly and very poorly drained soils with severe wetness or overflow hazards that cannot be corrected.
- VIIs - Strongly sloping and moderately steep soils with a low moisture-holding capacity or strongly sloping soils that are shallow.

- VIIe - Strongly sloping to steep soils with a very severe erosion hazard.
- VIIw - Nearly level, very poorly drained soils that are frequently flooded and have a water table that covers the surface most of the time.
- VIIs - Soils with a very low moisture-holding capacity or moderately steep and steep soils which are shallow.
- VIII - Soils with limitations that preclude their use for commercial plant production and restrict their use to recreation, wildlife, or aesthetic purposes.

RELATIONSHIP OF LAND CAPABILITY CLASSES TO SAFE LAND USE AND TREATMENT

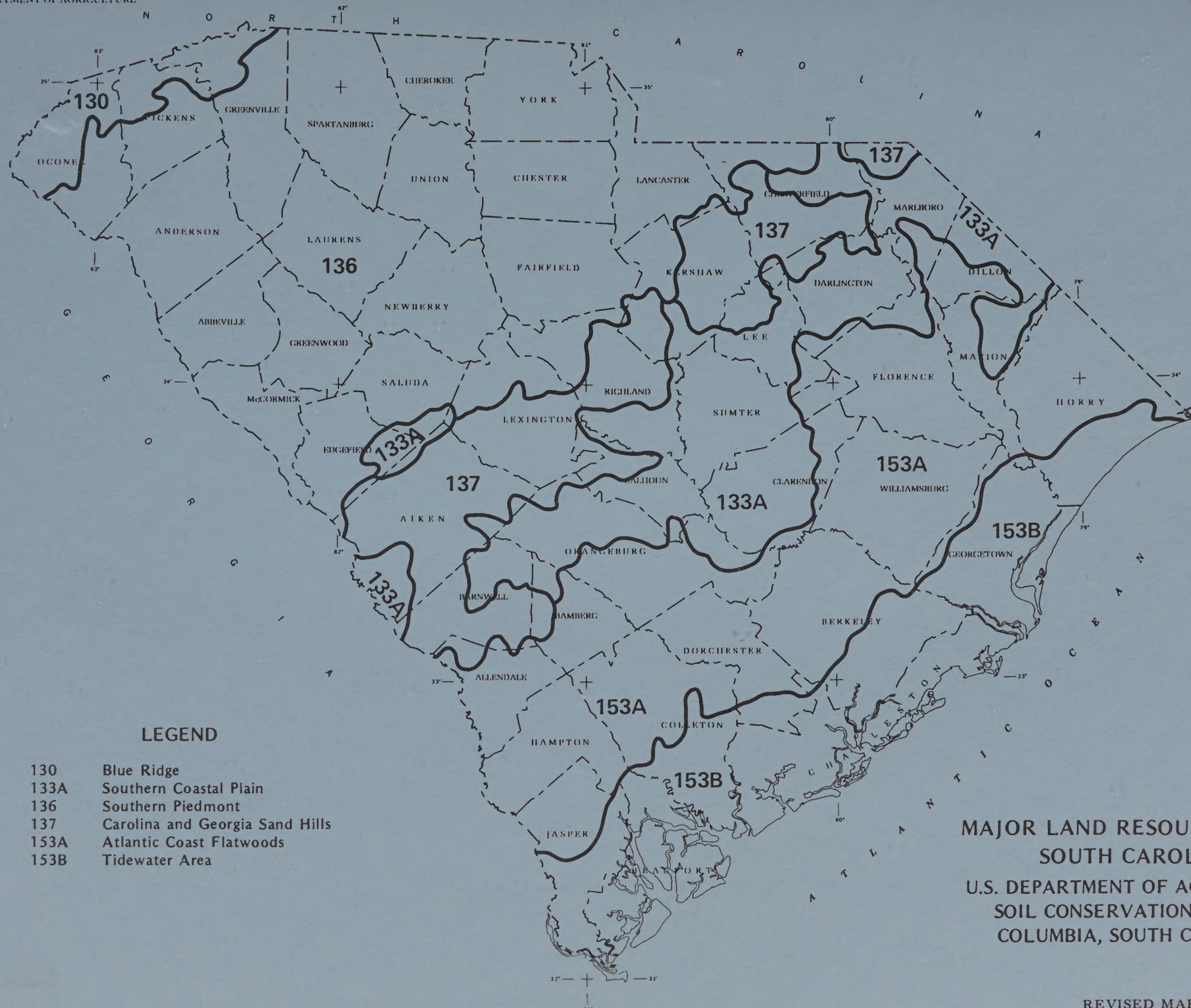
Land Capa- bility Class	Land Uses							
	Wildlife	Wood- land	Grazing		Cultivation			
			Moder- ate	Inten- sive	Limited	Moder- ate	Inten- sive	Very Intensive
I	Suitable for all uses. Cultivation requires only ordinary farm practices.							
II	Suitable for all uses, but simple conservation practices are needed when cultivated.							
III	Suitable for all uses, but intensive conservation practices are needed when cultivated.							
IV	Suitable for all uses, but cultivation should be limited.							
V	Suitable for pasture, woodland or wildlife.							
VI	Suitable for extensive pasture, woodland or wild- life. Generally not suited for cultivation unless adequately protected.							
VII	Suitable for woodland or wildlife uses. Usually not suited for pasture unless ade- quately protected.							
VIII	Suitable in some cases for wildlife production or recreation. Not suit- able for the economic production of cultivated crops, pasture or woods.							

## MAJOR LAND RESOURCE AREAS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- 130 **BLUE RIDGE:** An area of dissected, rugged mountains with narrow valleys. Elevations range from about 1,000 to 3,300 feet. Local relief ranges from a few hundred to over a thousand feet from valley floor to ridge crest. The area is chiefly forested with a few small farms in the valleys and coves and on the ridge tops. The soils are mostly well drained, loamy and formed from weathered gneiss, granite, and schist bedrock. This area occupies 387,000 acres or about 2 percent of the state.
- 133A **SOUTHERN COASTAL PLAIN:** An area of gentle slopes with increased dissection and moderate slopes in the northwestern part. Elevations range from about 100 to 450 feet with local relief in tens of feet. About one-half is forested and the other one-half is mostly cropland. The soils are dominantly well or moderately-well drained and formed in loamy or clayey Coastal Plain sediments. This area occupies 2,707,000 acres or about 14 percent of the state.
- 136 **SOUTHERN PIEDMONT:** An area of gently rolling to hilly slopes with narrow stream valleys. The elevation increases gradually from southeast to northwest ranging from about 375 to 1,000 feet. Local relief is mainly in tens of feet but ranges to several hundred feet. About two-thirds of the area is forested with the remainder dominantly in cropland and pasture. The soils are mostly well-drained, clayey, and formed in weathered schist, gneiss, or slate bedrock. This area occupies 6,768,000 acres or about 35 percent of the state.
- 137 **CAROLINA AND GEORGIA SAND HILLS:** An area of gently sloping to strongly sloping uplands. Elevations range from about 250 to 450 feet with local relief in tens of feet. About two-thirds of the area is forested with the remainder in cropland or pasture. The soils are mostly well-drained, sandy and formed in sand Coastal Plain sediments. This area occupies 2,127,000 acres or about 11 percent of the state.
- 153A **ATLANTIC COAST FLATWOODS:** An area that is mostly nearly level and is dissected by many broad, shallow valleys with meandering stream channels. Elevations range from about 40 to 125 feet with local relief of a few feet to about 20 feet. About one-half of the area is forested with the remainder being dominantly cropland. The soils are moderately well to poorly drained and formed in sandy to clayey Coastal Plain sediments. This area occupies 5,585,000 acres or about 29 percent of the state.
- 153B **TIDEWATER AREA:** An area that is nearly level and dissected by many broad, shallow valleys with meandering stream channels. Most of the valleys terminate in estuaries along the coast. Elevations range from sea level to about 40 feet and local relief is usually less than 5 feet. About two-thirds of the area is forested. The remainder of the area is marsh, pasture or cropland. The soils are dominantly somewhat poorly to very poorly drained and formed in sandy to clayey Coastal Plain sediments. This area occupies 1,764,000 acres or about 9 percent of the state.

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LEGEND

- 130 Blue Ridge
- 133A Southern Coastal Plain
- 136 Southern Piedmont
- 137 Carolina and Georgia Sand Hills
- 153A Atlantic Coast Flatwoods
- 153B Tidewater Area

MAJOR LAND RESOURCE AREAS  
SOUTH CAROLINA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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